

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Wadebridge Rural District  
Council

FOR THE YEAR 1941.



BODMIN :  
PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.



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## TO THE WADEBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1941.

### **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area (in acres)—88,064.

Registrar General's estimate of population—17,600

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to the Rate Books — 5,160.

Rateable value—£56,039.

Sum represented by a penny rate— £238-6-4.

### **Social Conditions..**

The town of Wadebridge is the shopping and marketing centre of a large agricultural district. Owing to the war the industries of fishing and china clay working have practically ceased to exist.

Agriculture, the chief industry, has largely changed its character from pastoral to arable. Farmers, as a class, are very individualistic and probably know their own business best; but whatever their private opinions may be, there can be no doubt, judging by the appearance of the country side, that they have

loyally carried out the expressed wish of the Government to "grow more corn."

A large number of evacuees from bombed areas have been billeted in the district including some hundreds of school children.

Owing to the willingness of foster parents, the hard work and tact of the evacuation committee, billeting officers and other voluntary helpers, this was carried out with less friction and difficulty than might have been anticipated.

The children on the whole look well fed and cared for, many showing marked improvement in health and physique, and this, I am inclined to think, applies more especially to the unaccompanied children.

### Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

	For Infant Mortality.			For Birth Rate.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
<b>Live births</b>	115	108	223	102	99	201
Legitimate	108	105	213	95	97	192
Illegitimate	7	3	10	7	2	9

**Birth rate** per 1,000 of the estimated population—

11.4

	For Infant Mortality.			For Birth Rate.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
<b>Still births—</b>	6	6	12	5	6	11
Illegitimate—	Nil.					



Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 51·8.

	M.	F.	Total.
<b>Deaths</b>	119	113	232

**Death rate** per 1,000 of the estimated population—  
13·18

Deaths from Puerpural Sepsis—1.

**Death rate of infants** under 1 year of age—

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	7	4	11
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	2	1	3

Death rate per 1,000 live births—49·32.

	M.	F.	Total.
<b>Deaths</b> from Cancer (all ages)	17	14	31
„ Measles (all ages)	1	0	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	0	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	1	1

The chief causes of death were—

**Infants—**

Premature birth and congenital debility.

**Adults—**

	M.	F.	Total.
Heart disease	24	34	58
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	22	10	32
Cancer	17	14	31
Bronchitis	6	10	16
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Tuberculosis	5	1	6

There was an epidemic of Measles during the first quarter of the year which then subsided.

Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred throughout the year but not in epidemic form.

Cases of Scabies and Impetigo were prevalent but kept in check by isolation and treatment in Sick Bays.

There was no closure of Schools on account of epidemics.

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those of England and Wales :—

		England and Wales.	
Birth rate	...	11·4	14·2
Death rate	...	15·18	12·9
Infantile death rate		49·32	50

### **General provision of Health Services.**

Medical Officer of Health—J. H. Hobling (part time Officer). He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bodmin, Public Vaccinator and Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyors—

Mr. J. D. Clerk, ~~Western~~ <sup>EASTERN</sup> Area.

Mr. A. E. Bewes, ~~Eastern~~ <sup>WESTERN</sup> Area.

Both are full time Officers and hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

The scope and amount of their work has been considerably increased by war conditions.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The St. John Ambulance Association have a Motor Ambulance kept in Bodmin for the use of the district. The County Council have a fleet of Ambulances in case of emergency, in addition to which suitable local vehicles have been adapted to take stretcher cases should the need arise.

### **Nursing in the Home.**

The County Nursing Association train and supply Nurses. The district is divided into areas each of which has its own Nurse.

There are no voluntary Hospitals in the area. There is an Isolation Hospital in St. Austell belonging jointly to the St. Austell Urban and Rural Districts and the Wadebridge Rural District

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

There is a Child Welfare Centre and Clinic in Wadebridge and a Day Nursery at Polzeath.

For Maternity Cases there is an Emergency Nursing Home situated in Bodmin.

The large number of children in the district from bombed areas has necessitated the provision of a Sick Bay for minor illnesses and Hostels for difficult or uncleanly children. The majority of these children soon show improvement under judicious management in their new surroundings.



### **Sanitary circumstances of the area.**

There is little change in the water and sewerage systems. The De Lank water scheme is in abeyance but will doubtless be revived in due course.

### **Public cleansing.**

There is a regular collection of household refuse which is dealt with as best suited to local conditions.

### **Housing.**

There is no new building. Care is taken to prevent undue overcrowding and to maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

Dairies, Cowsheds, &c., are visited and inspected as well as the various places dealing with meat and other food.

### **Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other diseases.**

Measles were prevalent in the early part of the year, chiefly in the eastern part of the area, due to a large extent to evacuated schools bringing the complaint with them.

Isolated cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were cropping up through the year. They were generally mild and did well.

There was free immunization against Diphtheria

for all children up to 16 years of age and an increasing number of children are being immunized.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases are treated in Isolation Hospitals and the contacts kept under supervision.

### Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total deaths.
Typhoid	0	0
Paratyphoid	0	0
Scarlet Fever	68	0
Whooping Cough	52	1
Diphtheria	14	0
Erysipelas	3	0
Smallpox	0	0
Measles	174	1
Pneumonia	15	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1

### Tuberculosis.

#### New cases and mortality during 1941—

Age period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
25	3	5	0	0	3	0	0	0
35	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total—	6	8	1	0	5	1	0	0

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.







